

AUG 28 1924

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THE SPEED SPOOK

Photoplay in 7 reels

Story by William Wallace Cook  
Scenario by Raymond S. Harris  
Directed by Mas. Hines

Author of the photoplay (under section 62)  
East Coast Films, Inc. of U.S.

AUG 28 1924

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C. C. BURR *presents*  
**JOHNNY HINES** in  
**"The SPEED SPOOK"**

**CAST**

"Blue Streak" Billings.....JOHNNY HINES  
 Betty West .....Faire Binney  
 "Chuck" .....Edmund Breese  
 Jud Skerrit .....Warner Richmond  
 Sheriff West .....Frank Losee  
 Hiram Smith.....Henry West

Story by William Wallace Cook

Directed by Charles Hines

Scenario by Raymond Harris

Photography by Chas. Gilson and John Geisel

Titles by Ralph Spence

Produced and Distributed by

East Coast Films, Inc.

**SYNOPSIS**

**B**LUE STREAK BILLINGS, in love with Betty West, is the man of the hour, due to his great victory in the 250-mile international automobile race. On his return to Westwood, his home town, he discovers that the Comet 8 automobile agency conducted by Betty is finding it hard to make any sales. She tells Billings that the last Comet was sold to Hiram Smith, who has so much trouble with it that the Comet had become the laughing stock of the town. Unknown to her, Hiram Smith had been tampering with the mechanism for reasons of his own.

Jud Skerrit, who is in league with Hiram Smith and is owner of the Eagle 8 agency, makes overtures of marriage to Betty, but she does not encourage him. Betty's sole interest at this time is the success of her agency, and when Billings and his mechanic, Chuck advise her that they will do something to put the Comet back into favor, her hopes begin to rise.

Two weeks later, the town of Westwood is terrified by a weird-looking auto which races through the centre of the town at tremendous speed. This car seemingly is driven by an infernal hand, since no driver has been seen at the wheel. Betty's father, Sheriff West, has made many fruitless attempts to overtake this car, which is dubbed "The Speed Spook" by the natives. With election time but a few weeks beyond, Sheriff West feels that he is doomed to defeat unless he is able to apprehend the spook. Hiram Smith is anxious to obtain the sheriff's job at the next election and is delighted at the predicament of Sheriff West.

Hiram Smith gives a lawn party to the townsfolk on election eve, and attempts to impress all with his candidacy. Blue Streak Billings, who is present, manages to spoil Hiram's party by some very clever tricks, with the result that instead of flocking to his banner, the public seems favorably inclined to Sheriff West. In order to offset this, Hiram Smith and Jud concoct a scheme to print their own ballots and substitute them at the polls. The Speed Spook continues to terrify the town and finally posts a message to the effect that on 3 o'clock of election day he will ride roughshod through Westwood, challenging everybody to overtake him. Hiram believes that this will be an appropriate time to stuff the ballot boxes, since everybody at the polls will be interested in seeing the Speed Spook caught. Blue Streak Billings comes upon Jud Skerrit as he is printing the fake ballots in an old arsenal and in a hard tussle Billings is overcome and bound. Billings is then left to his fate, but he manages to untie himself. An old armoured army tank has been left in the arsenal, and, jumping into it, Billings starts the engine and crashes through the wall to safety.

At the appointed hour, when all Westwood is waiting for it, the Speed Spook comes roaring through the main street. The cars take up the chase, with Betty and Sheriff West in the lead. After a wild ride with only Betty's car in pursuit the Speed Spook slows down and eventually stops. Sheriff West and Betty hop out and are amazed when the hood of the Speed Spook rises and Billings, smiling, is found underneath it at the wheel. Billings then explains that he built the Speed Spook with a Comet 8 engine and that it was he who had terrified the inhabitants in order to gain some publicity for Betty's car. As soon as they arrive back at Westwood Billings tells them that he will explain all later and rushes away in pursuit of Jud. He overtakes him, brings him back to the polls and makes him confess his perfidy and that of Hiram Smith. After they are taken into custody, Billings, after making Hiram confess that he tampered with the carburetor of the Comet 8 he bought from Betty, explains that "The Speed Spook," which had been going at breakneck speed through the town for the past few weeks, was really a Comet 8. Hearing this, there is an immediate rush to Betty's office, where hundreds of Comet 8 cars are sold. Billings gets his just reward, and the picture ends happily when Betty gives her hand in marriage to the likeable Billings.



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Washington, D. C.

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Washington, D. C.

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copyright in the name of East Coast Films, Inc.

The Speed Spook - 7 reels

Respectfully,

FULTON BRYLAWSKI

The East Coast Films, Inc.  
hereby acknowledges the receipt of two copies each of the  
motion picture films deposited and registered in the Copyright  
Office as follows:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date of Deposit</u>	<u>Registration</u>
The Speed Spook	8-28-24	©CIL 20528

The return of the above copies was requested by the said  
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the receipt thereof.



AUG 30 1924

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